

School cancellation policy

PATRICK COLLINS
BUSINESS MANAGER

As the winter weather approaches, I would like to remind you of the procedures the School Department will use for school cancellation, one-hour delay and/or early dismissal.

**PROCEDURES
SCHOOL CANCELLATION**

When school is canceled because of weather conditions, notification will be given, usually no later than 6:00 a.m., to these television chan-

conditions so warrant.

ONE-HOUR DELAY

If there is an early morning safety factor, the School Department may announce a one-hour delay of the opening of school. (Only under very special circumstances will a two-hour delay be called.) The announcement will be made on the television and radio stations listed above, usually no later than 6:00 a.m. If this plan is in effect, starting times for a one-hour delay will be as follows:

When there is a one-hour delay,

One hour delay times

8:25 a.m. High School	8:45 a.m. Oak Middle	8:55 a.m. Sherwood	9:30 a.m. Parker Road Middle	9:45 a.m. Coolidge	10:15 a.m. Beal/ECC Preschool Floral Street Paton Spring Street Beal West
Private Schools: 9:15 a.m. – St. John’s; 9:25 a.m. – St. Mary’s; 9:30 a.m. – Montessori & Al Hamra Academy					

nels - 4, 5, 7 and radio stations - WXLO FM 104.5, WTAG AM 580,

WSRS FM 96, WBZ AM 1030. This information will also be on our website: <http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/Central/snow/delay.htm>

The decision to cancel school will be based primarily on reports from the Highway Department and will reflect road conditions throughout Shrewsbury. Parents, however, are in the best position to judge conditions in their own neighborhood and may choose not to send their children to school if

buses for all schools and grades, including morning Kindergarten, will begin their routes one hour later than the regularly scheduled time. Parents who bring children to school must also wait one hour to do so. Teachers will also be arriving one hour late and there will be no supervision of children before that time. Special Education transportation will also be delayed one hour unless the student is individually notified of another adjustment. When a delay is called, there will be no morning Extended School Care Program.

Afternoon kindergarten and preschool classes will begin at the normal time. Dismissal times will remain the same as on a regular day.

**CANCELLATION OF AFTERNOON SESSIONS
FOR KINDERGARTEN/PRESCHOOL**

It may be necessary to cancel the afternoon sessions on days when bad weather conditions develop during the morning. Please listen to the radio stations listed above for notification of cancellation. The announcement will be made no later than 11:30 a.m.

EARLY DISMISSAL

(This option will be exercised only under the most extreme circumstances)

Early dismissal requires the most cooperation between parents and school. If weather conditions and safety issues warrant early dismissal, notification will be made on the radio stations listed above. Parents should take the following precautions:

1. If parents work or are not at home, arrange for children to have a key to the house or to stay at a neighbor's home.
2. Listen to the above radio stations for notification of a cancellation.

TELEPHONE CALLS

Finally, it is necessary to emphasize the importance of listening to the radio for information. Please DO NOT call the School Department, Police or Fire Departments, or radio stations. The telephone lines are needed during storm days for emergency situations.

Good News at Oak Middle

Last year, over one thousand friends, family members and committee members came to see Oak Middle School's three showings of "Bye-Bye Birdie."

For Mr. Clark, music teacher, and Mrs. Micarelli-Webb, drama teacher, putting on a musical at Oak Middle School in Shrewsbury was no problem and for a first timer it was a great success. It not only raised money for the school, but it also raised interest in all theatrical aspects at the Shrewsbury Middle School.

Mrs. Micarelli-Webb, who had just received her master's degree from Emerson College, knew she wanted to produce a musical at Oak Middle right after she was awarded the job. She had been in "Bye-Bye Birdie" as an eighth grader and thought it would be an excellent starter show. It had great songs, so Mr. Clark quickly agreed to her choice.

HANNAH RUBIN

OAK STREET EIGHTH GRADER



For a first-time musical it was not expected to be the best of shows but it definitely exceeded those expectations.

"Last year's musical helped to define the culture of Oak Middle School. It did so by providing an opportunity to showcase the talents of students in the production for friends, family and the community. In doing this, all of the students involved demonstrated to themselves and the community how capable they are of creating something special for so many to enjoy by working together," said Mrs. Micarelli-Webb.

Students had been "bitten by the theater bug" because of the show. By the time the "Bye-Bye Birdie" buzz had subsided, everyone wanted to be a part of next year's musical, but that was a long way off. Everyone wanted to become a part of the middle school's select choir as well.

When parents and students came in for orientation, one of the first questions asked was what the musical would be for that year.

Because there was such a demand for drama and the spring musical was many months away, a Drama Club was formed.

The Drama Club at Oak is a club open to everyone, giving kids at the school the chance to continue to enhance their theatrical skills, socialize with students who share their common interest and be provided with a unique performance opportunity.

The Drama Club will be performing skits from "Little Women" at the Orchard House in Concord, Massachusetts in December, January, and February.

The spring musical for this year has finally been announced as "Good News" which is based in the 1920's. It will provide the audience with lots of laughs and a football theme.

It is the goal of all of us at Oak Middle School to have the same wonderful turnout that we did last year.

Chinese teachers visit Shrewsbury

CINDY ERLE &
MICHAEL CICCOLELLA
SHERWOOD TEACHERS

A unique opportunity presented itself at a Primary Source liaisons meeting that we attended in the Spring. They were looking for partner school districts to host teachers from Xi'an China. We approached Dr. Bent with the idea, and it was then presented to the Global Studies committee where it was received with much enthusiasm. Cindy Erle offered her home to host the teachers and plans were underway. The goals of the visit were to provide the Chinese teachers with a deeper understanding of American education, society, and culture, and to make a small, but significant step towards increasing friendship between the Chinese and American people. With these goals in mind, the Global studies Committee met to finalize the schedule for the visit. It soon became evident that the teachers would be busy trying to experience everything.

After arriving on Saturday, October 1st, the teachers, Daying Tang and Xulien Zhang, went through a grueling schedule from sun-up to sundown in order to experience as much of American life and schools as possible. Their activities ranged from a Thanksgiving style dinner at host Cindy Erle's house, to a school committee meeting at town hall. We even got to take them into Boston to explore Boston's history, subways, and Harvard Square. In our schools they visited sports and clubs at the high school in addition to spending time at both middle schools. Beal, Spring, and Floral schools all welcomed the guests in to observe things like morning meeting, typical classroom activities, and of course lunches.

At the high school, their welcome was broadcast throughout the school,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chinese teachers Daying, first from left, and Xuelian, fifth from left, visit Shrewsbury schools for an exchange of ideas.

thanks to special arrangements by teacher Amy O'Leary, who has visited China in the past as well. By the time the final farewell banquet, organized by the PTO and Karen Bartkiewicz, rolled around, the visitors were enthused but exhausted by their visit here to Shrewsbury. They left on Friday, October 7th to tour the US with pleasant thoughts of our community and an open invitation for all to visit them in China.

One of the key components of the visit was a large chunk of time spent at Sherwood Middle School in the new Chinese language class. Instructor Xin Xin, a resident of Shrewsbury, worked with Xulien and Daying to prepare her class for a great real life cultural enrichment. The class, under sponsorship of many private donors, is an attempt to build a stronger connection and understanding of non-Western cultures in the students of Shrewsbury. Having these visitors was a real asset to show all of our town, and especially the 39 students that Xin Xin teaches, that this is a valuable and real life thing. The students in all of the schools were thrilled and welcomed the guests with shouts of "Ni hao," a Chinese greeting

meaning "hello."

Many people helped make this visit a success. Deborah Peeples and the school committee welcomed Daying and Xulien with a cookout upon their arrival.

Judy Evans and Dr. Bent spent much time helping prepare the district for their arrival. A good chunk of the work was undertaken by the Global Studies Committee, who worked out the schedule and assured the guest teachers were taken care of and all their questions were answered. The committee includes Mike Ciccolella, Deb Peeples, Dan Gutekanst, Jenn DiFrancesca, Mo Travers, Amy O'Leary, Joyce Gallo-Teggart, Beth VanAtten, and other part-time members. Finally, the visit would not have been possible without the organization of Primary Source in Watertown, under the direction of Wanli Hu.

We hope to do many more exchanges and visits like this one to boost our students' awareness of the world beyond the West. Dr. Bent just returned from Japan and Dr. Gutekanst, high school principal, plans to visit a possible sister school outside of Beijing, China this winter.



PHOTO BY DAWNA ALPHONSE

Mr. Clark and Mrs. Micarelli-Webb relax between their classes at Oak Middle School.